



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE**  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

MAR 31 2006

Dianne Meester  
Chair, Sanctuary Advisory Council  
Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary  
113 Harbor Way, Suite 150  
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Deborah Streeter  
Chair, Sanctuary Advisory Council  
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
299 Foam Street  
Monterey, CA 93940

Dr. Terrie Klinger  
Chair, Sanctuary Advisory Council  
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary  
115 Railroad Ave. East, Suite 301  
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Thomas Lambert  
Chair, Sanctuary Advisory Council  
Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary  
PO Box 159  
Olema, CA 94950

Barbara Emley  
Chair, Sanctuary Advisory Council  
Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary  
Fort Mason, Bldg. 201  
San Francisco, CA 94123

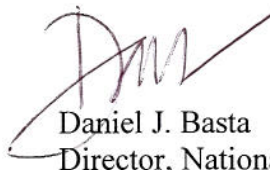
Dear Advisory Council Chairs:

Thank you for the letters and resolutions your Sanctuary Advisory Councils recently submitted regarding consideration of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and its potential implications for national marine sanctuaries. All five of the west coast Sanctuary Advisory Councils adopted resolutions on this matter, a first for the National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) and one that conveys an important message to me and the leadership of NOAA. Per your requests, we have forwarded those resolutions to VADM Lautenbacher, the NOAA Administrator (see attached).

We have also communicated the positions of the five west coast Sanctuary Advisory Councils to the Minerals Management Service (MMS), who is responsible for conducting the inventory of oil and gas resources on the outer continental shelf, as required by the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Additionally, we have added a special session on this issue to the Advisory Council Chairs annual meeting agenda (April 26-27 in Washington, D.C.), and invited MMS to make a presentation and join our discussions. I look forward to discussing this with you in person.

Again, thank you for the resolutions of your Advisory Councils, and for your continued community leadership and support of the National Marine Sanctuary Program.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. Basta  
Director, National Marine Sanctuary Program



cc: William J. Douros, Regional Superintendent (acting), West Coast Region  
West Coast Sanctuary Superintendents